



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
CLAYTON E. UZELL
COMMISSIONER



Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650
Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: February 17, 2016 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, President
Frank Pocci, Vice President
Bob Potts, Secretary
Clayton Uzell, Commissioner
Daniel T. Weist, Commissioner
Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mel Baher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda and to accept the agenda with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached):

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to accept the report of the Executive Director as given.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to approve Resolution 2015-35, an amendment modifying expenses for the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers Conference May 15-21, 2016, expenses not to exceed \$8,402.00.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Anyone requesting a flag case should provide Memorial Affairs with a copy of the veteran's death certificate and DD214.

The Executive Director gave the Board a brief update on the first staff development session that took place on Thursday, February 11th.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services District spring training for District 3 will take place on Friday, March 4, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., at Ashtabula Elks Post 208 in Ashtabula, Ohio. The fall District 3 meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 6th, time and location to be determined.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

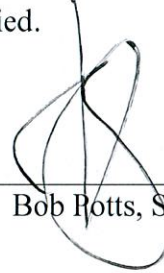
There were no items for executive session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.



Mel Baher, President



Bob Potts, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:	Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Manager (216-698-2391)
Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs:	Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager (216-698-2639)
Memorial Affairs:	Laurene Rutkowski (216-698-2655)
Social Work Dept.:	Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Management (216-698-2379)
Executive Director:	Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Commissioners:	Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)

CUYAHOGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Progress Report on the State of the Commission

January, 2016

Issued by:

The CCVSC Commissioners

Mel Baher –President, American Legion

Frank Pocci –Vice President, AMVETS

Bob Potts – Secretary, VVA

Clayton E. Uzell - VFW

Daniel Weist –DAV

February 17, 2016

Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of January 31, 2016:

Executive:

The Executive Director

- Attended Veterans Treatment Court weekly sessions
- Met with Bob Cejer from Money Saver
- Met with John Tidyman from the DD214 Chronicle
- Met with various staff members to discuss staffing re-organization
- Met with Richard Ramero about advertising
- Met with Ron Schwachenwald
- Met with Mone Givner
- Attended the VTC Advisory Committee meeting
- Completed application for a client
- Met with Sandy Green from Valpak
- Attended the RISFAC meeting in Akron
- Met with Diane Gatto from 211

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

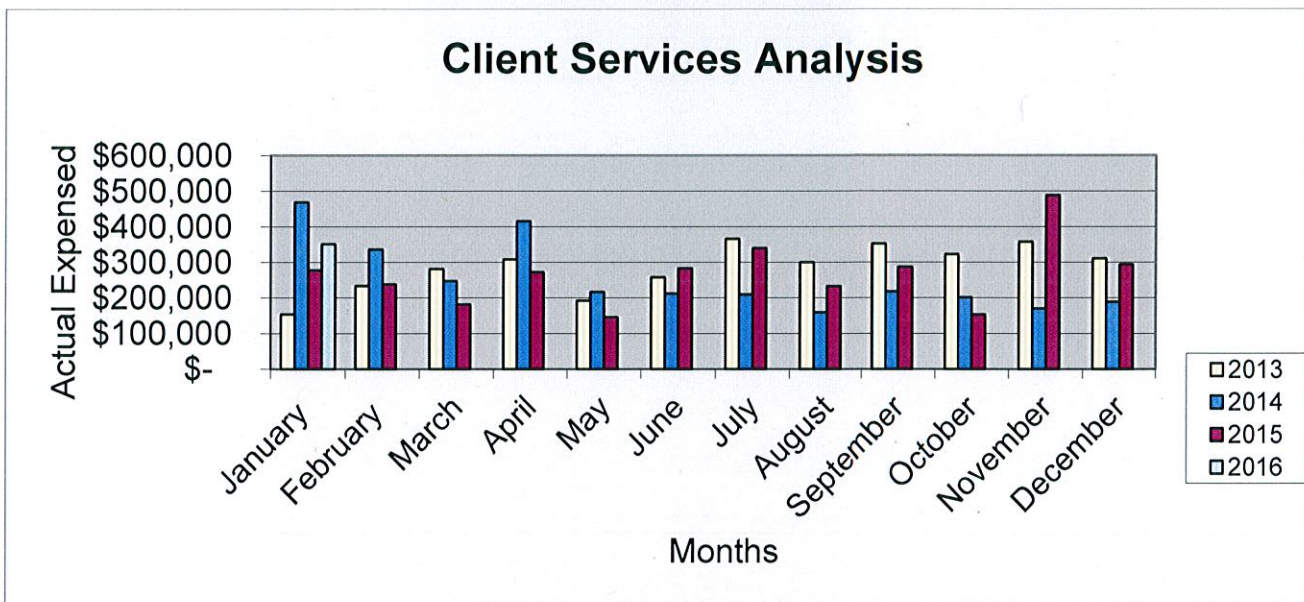
- Submitted: 22
- Positive: 22
- Negative: 0
- Neutral: 0

Finance Department

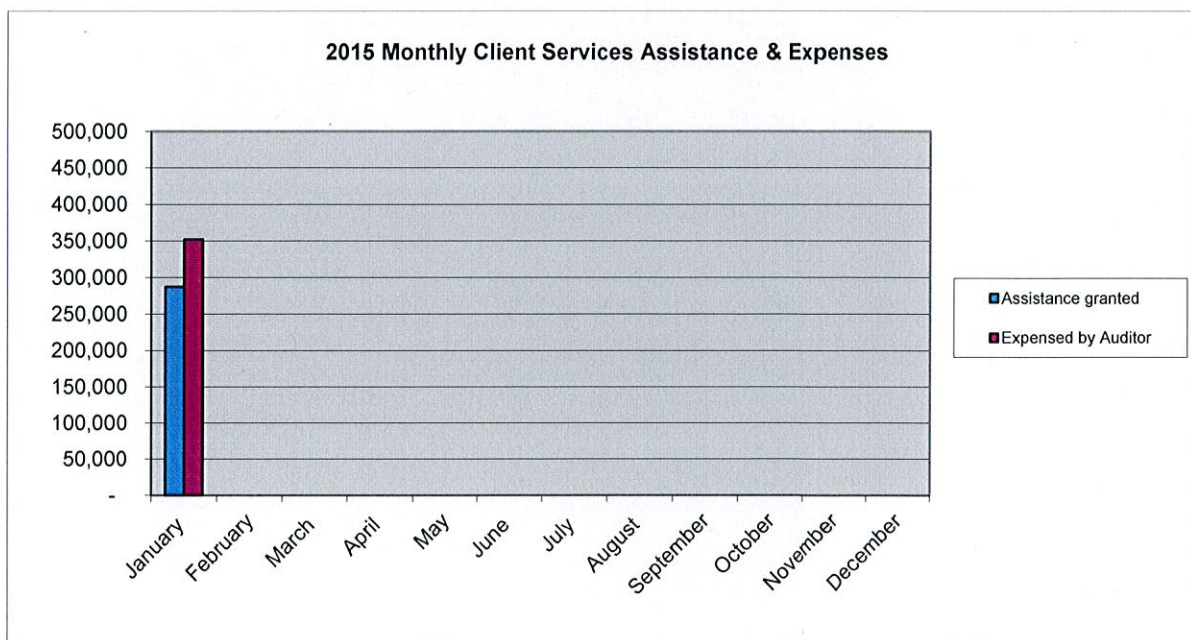
Below are selected January reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

Client services include: Financial Assistance for Medical, Food, Mortgage, Rent, Utilities, Infant Layette, Personal Hygiene, Shoes & Clothing

Comparative Chart Analysis



Actual 2015 Expenses



Total 2016 Expense Analysis

	Total	YTD	YTD	Remaining	2016	Budget
	Budget	Expenditure	Encumbr	Expenditures	Projection	Variance
Salaries	1,837,426	129,551	-	1,619,110	1,748,661	88,765
Fringe Benefits	689,876	53,097	-	609,188	662,285	27,591
Commodities	30,776	1,425	-	20,168	21,593	9,183
Contract Services	386,765	40,605	119,661	346,160	386,765	-
Controlled Expenditures	225,081	-	-	225,081	225,081	-
Client Services	3,865,646	351,571	316,638	3,271,543	3,623,114	242,532
Other Expenditures	367,290	18,780	7,338	266,392	285,172	82,118
Capital Outlay	117,006	-	90,598	60,057	60,057	56,949
Total Expenditures	7,519,866	595,029	534,235	6,417,699	7,012,728	507,138

Assistance Department:

- January, 2016: \$351,571 (Up from \$277,606 in 2015)
- YTD 2016: \$351,571 (Up from \$277,606 in 2015)

The January Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

Indicator	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	548	288	90.3%
Applications taken	457	274	66.8%
Applications withdrawn	(42)	(54)	-22.2%
Applications denied	(75)	(60)	25.0%
Applications approved	340	160	112.5%

Indicator	YTD 2016	YTD 2015	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	548	288	90.3%
Applications taken	457	274	66.8%
Applications withdrawn	(42)	(54)	-22.2%
Applications denied	(75)	(60)	25.0%
Applications approved	340	160	112.5%

- First Time Assistance
 - January, 2016: 48 (Up from 34 in 2015)
 - 42 approved, 0 at Level III, 1 partial, 1 denied, 4 withdrawn
 - YTD 2016: 48 (Up from 34 in 2015)
- Withdrawn applications from December that were unresolved: 35 of 58

Listed below is a breakdown of appeals for the month of January, 2016.

<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	<u>2016</u>	
Cases Approved	29	29
Cases Partially Approved	4	4
Cases Denied	33	33
Cases Withdrawn	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	71	71

<u>Board Appeals</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	<u>2016</u>	
Cases Approved	12	12
Cases Denied	12	12
Cases Partially Approved	0	0
Cases Withdrawn	0	0
Cases Verifying Fraud	1	1
Fraud Not Verified	0	0
Attempted Fraud	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	25	25

Medical and Other Transportation:

- January, 2016: \$14,727.50 (YTD: \$14,727.50)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$14,502.50 (YTD: \$14,502.50)
- Other: \$225 (YTD: \$225)
- Transportation Approved: 570 applicants (YTD: 570)

Medical and Dental Programs:

- January, 2016: \$7,792 (YTD: \$7,792)
 - Dental: \$1,541 (YTD: \$1,541)
 - Vision: \$410 (YTD: \$410)
 - Hearing Aid: \$5,841 (YTD: \$5,841)

Memorial Affairs Department:

- January, 2016: \$6,993.00 (YTD: 6,993.00)
- 7 Indigent burials
 - Air Force: 0
 - Marine: 0
 - Navy: 0
 - Army: 7

Service Department:

	Compensation	Pension	DIC	Follow-Up	Medical	POA	Miscellaneous Correspondence	DD214 Requests	Headstone	Presidential Memorial Certificates	National Cemetery Referrals	Other
Wade Park	60	9	2	333	17	51	392	64	1	0	0	117
Parma	40	7	3	173	0	45	251	14	0	0	0	49
Main Office	41	16	1	72	4	19	220	46	9	53	25	58
Federal Building	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CRRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Benefits Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (Month)	141	32	6	578	21	115	863	124	10	53	25	224
Total (YTD)	141	32	6	578	21	115	863	124	10	53	25	224

Interviews:
 • 1,829 (YTD: 1,829)
 FA Referrals:
 • 31 (YTD: 31)
 Total:
 • 1,860 (YTD: 1,860)
 Phone Calls:
 • 3,708 (YTD: 3,708)

Social Work

- January, 2016: Total Signed In: 69 (YTD: 69)
 - Seen: 54 (YTD: 54)
 - Not Seen: 0 (YTD: 0)
 - Offline: 15 (YTD: 15)
 - New Veterans: 3 (YTD: 3)

- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 33 (YTD: 33)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 21 (YTD: 21)
- In January, no veterans were taken to the Ohio Veterans Home.

Referrals

- Outside Agencies
 - VA Medical: 3
 - Employment: 4
 - Debt Counseling: 4
 - Other: 15

Other

IT

Computer Changes

Place a work order with VA to install new computer at Parma V.A.

Federal Building Computer

DSL line installed, all computer equipment is install Start date of February 16, 2016.

Submitted by:

**Jon Reiss
Executive Director**